

Explore the American Experience

Virginia State Parks

Celebrating 400 years of history and nature



2007

Outdoor Adventure
GUIDE and CALENDAR



Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation



Governor's Message

Throughout 2007, the country and the world turn their attention to Virginia, as we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of English-speaking America and the settlement of Jamestown. The commemoration begins at First Landing State Park then spreads across the Commonwealth.

Our award-winning state park system offers special programs showcasing the anniversary from a variety of perspectives. Take time to learn what Virginia's environment looked like 400 years ago when British settlers arrived, discover a replica Native American village, or explore a recreated 18th century frontier settlement. You can travel through four centuries of historic sites, sounds and stories across Virginia's 34 state parks.

Now is a great time to visit a state park. You'll find new cabins, campgrounds, family lodges, visitor centers and other new offerings; all part of our multi-million dollar, five-year facelift.

From the Cumberland Gap to the Atlantic Ocean, from the Shenandoah Valley to the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia State Parks are an important part of a healthy lifestyle. With nearly 500 miles of trails, and a wide range of fun and educational activities, workshops, concerts, festivals, programs and natural wonders, you'll never run out of ways to discover Virginia.

State parks also are a perfect way to preserve and protect land for the future. Conserving our open space today as parks and natural areas allows our grandchildren the opportunity to enjoy the same views, swim in the same clean water, and hike the same trails that make our Commonwealth so special.

My family and I have enjoyed Virginia State Parks for many years. Please accept my personal invitation to visit Virginia's award-winning state parks during this special time in our nation's history. With everything that's going on, there's never been a better time to visit a Virginia State Park.

Tim Kaine
Governor of Virginia

Celebrating 400 years of history and nature



STEVE BASSETT BLOWIN' THE DUST OFF TOUR

Featuring

MICHELLE NIXON & DRIVE

Featuring pre-1900s musical instruments
during the concert



DON'T MISS
THIS MUSICAL JOURNEY
OF VIRGINIA'S HISTORY

Tour Schedule

Natural Tunnel State Park	May 5
Chippokes Plantation State Park	May 12
New River Trail State Park	May 19
Douthat State Park	May 26
Lake Anna State Park	June 2
Claytor Lake State Park	June 8
Staunton River State Park	June 16
Pocahontas State Park	June 30
Belle Isle State Park	July 7
Fairy Stone State Park	July 21
Westmoreland State Park	July 28
Hungry Mother State Park	Aug. 10
Occoneechee State Park	Aug. 18
James River State Park	Aug. 25
Grayson Highlands State Park	Sept. 2
First Landing State Park	Sept. 29



BEFORE THE CONCERT
view instruments up
close and hear the
incredible stories about
where they've been.

Special after concert 'pickers camp' for campers.



WWW.STEVEBASSETTMUSIC.COM

WWW.MICHELLENIXON.COM

Virginia State Parks offer regularly scheduled interpretive programs as well as hundreds of special events, festivals and activities. These programs are designed to entertain, educate and enhance your enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of Virginia's great outdoors.

For more information about Virginia State Parks, visit www.dcr.virginia.gov, or call 1-800-933-PARK (7275). While you're on the phone, you can also reserve your cabin or campsite.

Key: \$ Parking and/or admission fee charged

March

17	The Women of Leesylvania, Leesylvania	13
17 - Nov. 10	Sky Watch at Sailor's Creek Battlefield, Sailors Creek Battlefield	13
17	Livin' Green, Smith Mountain Lake	13
17	Hearth Cooking, Chippokes Plantation.....	13
18	Cove Ridge Candlelight Series, Natural Tunnel.....	3
24	Hearth Cooking, Chippokes Plantation.....	13
24	Sky Watch, Pocahontas	13
31	Easter Egg Hunt, Staunton River Battlefield	5
31	Hearth Cooking, Chippokes Plantation.....	13

April

1 - May. 31	A Stitch in Time Annual Quilt Show, Southwest Virginia Museum	5
7	Easter Celebration, Smith Mountain Lake	5
7	Easter Activities, Douthat	5
7-8	Sailor's Creek Living History, Sailors Creek Battlefield	3
7 - May. 5	Pathways to the Past, Pocahontas	13
8	Easter Egg Hunt, Leesylvania.....	5
10-18	New River Trail Spring Seniors Van Tour, New River Trail.....	5
14	Native Planting for Backyard Habitats, Caledon	13
14	Spring Clean Up at False Cape, False Cape.....	3
14	Your Backyard Classroom, Grayson Highlands	3
14-15	Wildflower Weekend, Natural Tunnel	14
15 - Aug. 12	Dan River Pontoon Boat Tours, Staunton River	17
20 - Oct. 12	Campfire Stories, Caledon	19
20	Earth Day Celebration, Douthat	3
21	Eagle Festival, Mason Neck	5
21	Earth Day at Claytor Lake, Claytor Lake.....	3
21	Primitive Technologies Workshop, Holliday Lake	14
21	Spring Sky Watch, James River.....	14
21-22	Kinetic Race Weekend, Lake Anna	3
23-27	Jamestown: The Beginning of the Adventure for Kids, Wilderness Road.....	14
24	New River Trail Spring Half-Day Van Tour, New River Trail	14
26	America's 400th Anniversary: Re-enactment, First Landing.....	5
28	Fairy Stone Hunt Site Clean-up, Fairy Stone.....	3
28	Mountain Do Triathlon, Hungry Mother	3
28	Spring Fling, Kiptopeke.....	5
28	Youth Ambassadors Earth Day and Spring River Clean Up, Leesylvania.....	3
28 - Sept. 29	Wolf Trap Rambler's Band Concert, Staunton River.....	5
29	Cove Ridge Candlelight Series, Natural Tunnel.....	3

May

1 - May 31	Jones-Stewart Mansion Tours, Chippokes Plantation.....	3
1 - Oct. 31	Paddle the Rappahanock, Belle Isle	17
4-5	Lakeside Bluegrass Festival, Twin Lakes.....	5
5	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Natural Tunnel.....	2
5	Girl Scout Day at Douthat, Douthat	14
5	SML Triathlon, Smith Mountain Lake.....	3
5-6	Voyage to Jamestown, Chippokes Plantation	14
5 - Sept. 1	Kids' Free Fishing Tournaments, Leesylvania	18
6	Journey to the James, Chippokes Plantation	18
11-13	Raid at Martin's Station, Wilderness Road	5
12	Music by the River - Bill, Pam and Macon Gurley, Belle Isle	5
12	Native American Festival, Occoneechee	6
12	Mother's Day Hike, Leesylvania.....	14
12	Bat Workshop, Caledon	14
12	Clean the Trails Day, Twin Lakes.....	3
12	Mothers Day Activities, Douthat.....	6
12	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Chippokes Plantation	2
12-13	A Paddle to the Past, Chippokes Plantation	18
13	Beach Bonfire, Chippokes Plantation	14
18 - Oct. 13	Fossil, Fun and Fitness Kayak Trip, Westmoreland	6

19	Armed Forces Day Concert, Claytor Lake.....	6
19	Music by the River - Steve Keith, Belle Isle	6
19	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, New River Trail	2
19-20	Douthat Lake Run Cruise-In and Car Show, Douthat	6
19-20	Jazz by the Lake - Southside Jazz Festival, Occoneechee	6
25-28	Memorial Day Weekend activities, Many Parks.....	6
26	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Douthat	2
26	Gathering in the Gap Music Festival, Southwest Virginia Museum	6
26 - Oct. 27	Lighting of the Tunnel, Natural Tunnel.....	6
26-27	Kiptopeke Native American Festival, Kiptopeke	6
26-27	Delaplane Strawberry Festival, Sky Meadows	7
26 - Sept. 1	Bluegrass Under the Stars, James River	7
26	Luau at the Lake, Hungry Mother	7
26	Hickory Flats, Grayson Highlands	7
27	Get-together with Wayne C. Henderson, Grayson Highlands	7
27 - Sept. 2	Take a Ride on the Wild Side, False Cape	15
29 - Aug. 28	Light Your Fire, Smith Mountain Lake	3
29 - Aug. 28	Speak to a Suttler, Smith Mountain Lake	15
30 - Jun. 27	Colonial Candles, Smith Mountain Lake	15
30 - Aug. 31	Critter Keepers, Smith Mountain Lake	3
30 - Sept. 26	Lunar Launch! Full Moon Canoe Trip, Smith Mountain Lake	3
31 - Aug. 30	CSI: Creek Scene Investigation, Smith Mountain Lake	15
31 - Aug. 30	Morning on the Lake, Smith Mountain Lake	18

June

1 - Jun. 30	Jones-Stewart Mansion tours, Chippokes Plantation	3
2	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Lake Anna	2
2	National Trails Day, Many Parks.....	15
2	Occoneechee Kids' Fishing Day, Occoneechee	18
2	Youth Fishing Clinic, Smith Mountain Lake.....	18
2 - Sept. 1	Gyoataku! (Fish Printing), Smith Mountain Lake	15
2 - Sept. 1	Music in the Park, Hungry Mother.....	7
2 - Oct. 20	Stock Creek Passage, Natural Tunnel.....	15
8	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Claytor Lake	2
9	Aspiring Anglers Tournament, Smith Mountain Lake.....	18
9	James River Bateau Living History, James River.....	15
9	Fishing for the Kids and Clean the Bay Day, Douthat.....	18
9	Music by the River - Southern Grace, Belle Isle	7
9	Celebration of Summer, Claytor Lake	7
9-10	Siege at the Blockhouse, Natural Tunnel.....	15
9-10	Birdbath Workshop, Caledon.....	15
9-10	Chippokes Steam and Gas Show, Chippokes Plantation.....	7
9-10	Photography Workshop, Grayson Highlands	15
9 - Aug. 18	Star-gazing at Twin Lakes, Twin Lakes.....	15
9 - Sept. 1	Bluegrass Under the Stars, James River	8
10 - Aug. 26	Pickin' in the Park, Natural Tunnel	8
13 - Aug. 8	How Our Ancestors Lived: The Roaring Twenties, Southwest Virginia Museum	15
15	Staunton River' 71st Birthday Bash, Staunton River	8
15-23	Magic in the Mountains: A Festival of Alleghenies, Douthat.....	8
16	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Staunton River	2
16	Children's Fishing Clinic, Fairy Stone.....	18
16	Keeping up with the Joneses, Holliday Lake.....	16
16	Wayne C. Henderson Music Festival and Guitar Competition, Grayson Highlands.....	8
16	Music by the River - Hi Tied and Mercy Creek, Belle Isle.....	8
16 - July 7	Old Time Games, Sailors Creek Battlefield	3
17	Mountain Cultural Festival, Grayson Highlands	8
17	Rhododendron Bloom Hike, Grayson Highlands.....	16
21 - Aug. 22	Early Morning Canoe Trip, Staunton River	18
22 - Aug. 23	Mid-Morning Canoe Trip, Staunton River	18
23	Battle Commemoration, Staunton River Battlefield	8
23	Farm and Fish Expo, Kiptopeke	8
29 - July 2	James River Fourth of July Weekend, James River State Park	8
29 - Oct. 14	Before 1607 Melungeons in the New World, Southwest Virginia Museum	8
30	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Pocahontas.....	2

30 - July 4	Fourth of July at Claytor Lake, Claytor Lake	8
30 - July 21	Mid-morning Canoe Trip, Twin Lakes	18
30 - July 28	Moonlight Canoe Tour, Bear Creek	4

July

1 - July 31	Jones-Stewart Mansion tours, Chippokes Plantation	4
3-24	Treasure Hunt, Smith Mountain Lake	4
4	Fourth of July Activities, Douthat	9
4	Fourth of July at First Landing, First Landing	9
4	An Old-Fashioned Fourth, Southwest Virginia Museum	9
4-25	Trash or Treasure?, Smith Mountain Lake	3
6 - Aug. 31	Lunch on the Lawn, Southwest Virginia Museum	16
7	Independence Day Concert at New River Trail, New River Trail	9
7	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Belle Isle	2
7-13	Jamestown: The Beginning of the Adventure, Wilderness Road	16
14	Grayson Highlands First Annual Classic Car Show, Grayson Highlands	9
14	Music by the River, Belle Isle	9
15	Build Your Own Sundial, Caledon	16
20-22	Hungry Mother Arts and Crafts Festival, Hungry Mother	9
21-22	Pork, Peanut and Pine Festival, Chippokes Plantation	9
21	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Fairy Stone	2
21	James River Raft Race and Summer Festival, James River	9
21	Q-99 Beach Party, Smith Mountain Lake	4
28	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Westmoreland	2
28	Douthat Arts and Crafts Fair, Douthat	9

August

1-29	Critter Tracking, Smith Mountain Lake	4
1-31	Jones-Stewart Mansion tours, Chippokes Plantation	4
4	Fairy Stone Arts and Crafts Fair, Fairy Stone	9
4	A Walk Through Time - Our 35th Anniversary, Holliday Lake	9
4	Dog Days of Summer Concert, New River Trail	9
4	Mixed Bag, Grayson Highlands	9
4	Scavenger Hunt Challenge, Twin Lakes	16
10	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Hungry Mother	2
11	Music by the River, Belle Isle	10
18	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Occoneechee	2
18	African-American Heritage Day, Chippokes Plantation	10
18	Back to School Beach Bash, Claytor Lake	10
18	Music by the River, Belle Isle	10
18	Big Country 101 Back to School Beach Bash, Douthat	10
18	Saturday Evening Paddle, Twin Lakes	18
25	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, James River	2
31 - Sept. 3	Labor Day Weekend Activities, Most Parks	10

September

1	Plywood Boat Derby, Hungry Mother	4
1	Shuck 'n Cluck, Hungry Mother	10
2	Fifth Annual Papa Joe Smiddy Mountain Music Festival, Natural Tunnel	10
2	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, Grayson Highlands	2
7	Bay Seafood Festival, Belle Isle	10
8	Odyssey Half Iron Triathlon, Lake Anna	4
8	Stewardship Virginia James River Cleanup, James River	4
15	Native American Day at Natural Tunnel, Natural Tunnel	10
15	Come Home to Westmoreland, Westmoreland	10
15	International Coastal Cleanup, False Cape	4
15	New River Trail Challenge Triathlon, New River Trail	4
15	Stewardship Virginia Waterways Cleanup Day, Douthat	4
22	Appalachian Author's Signature Event, Southwest Virginia Museum	11
22	Big Lick Triathlon, Smith Mountain Lake	4
22	Estuaries Day, York River	16
22-23	Anniversary of Freestone Battery, Leesylvania	11

29	Performing Arts in the Park, Douthat	11
29	Blowin' the Dust Off Concert, First Landing	2
29-30	Grayson Highlands Fall Festival, Grayson Highlands	11

October

5-7	Virginia Double/Triple Iron Triathlon, Lake Anna	4
6-7	Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Expo, Kiptopeke	16
6-13	Fall Haunted Hayrides, Grayson Highlands	4
6-28	October Fall Farm Fest Weekends, Sky Meadows	11
12-14	America's First Frontier and Heritage Festival, Wilderness Road	11
13	Heritage Harvest Day, Chippokes Plantation	11
13	Apple Day, Douthat	11
13	Autumn Sky Watch, James River	16
13	Digging into History, Claytor Lake	4
13	Fall Fear Bike Race, Hungry Mother	4
13	Leesylvania's Multicultural Festival, Leesylvania	11
13	Wilderness Road Heritage Festival, Wilderness Road	11
13	Frontier Harvest Celebration, Natural Tunnel	11
16	New River Trail Autumn Seniors Van Tour, New River Trail	16
20	Olde Time Harvest Festival at Mason Neck, Mason Neck	11
20	Harvest and Halloween Festival, Chippokes Plantation	11
20	Fall Harvest Festival and Haunted Wagon Ride, James River	12
20	Fall Fest, First Landing	12
20	Haunted Harvest Hayride, Staunton River Battlefield	12
20	Footprints of the Past, Claytor Lake	4
26-27	Haunted Hayrides at Kiptopeke, Kiptopeke	4
26-27	Haunted Hike at Sailor's Creek, Sailors Creek Battlefield	4
26-27	Haunted History Hike, Leesylvania	4
26-28	Plantation Christmas Crafts Festival, Chippokes Plantation	12
27	Fairy Stone Fall Frolic, Fairy Stone	12
27	Halloween Activities, Douthat	12
27	Goblins and Goodies, Smith Mountain Lake	12
27	Halloween at Caledon, Caledon	4
27	Haunted Trail and Hay Ride, Shenandoah River	12
27	Haunted Ghouls Trail, Smith Mountain Lake	4
30	New River Trail Autumn Half-Day Van Tour, New River Trail	16

November

3	Decorating with Nature, Caledon	17
3-18	Jones-Stewart Mansion Tours: Chief Chippokes, Chippokes Plantation	4
3	Wildlife Mapping Workshop, James River	4
10	Caledon Art and Wine Festival, Caledon	4
11 - Dec. 31	Annual Festival of Trees, Southwest Virginia Museum	12
12-16	Jamestown: The Beginning of the Adventure for Kids, Wilderness Road	14
12-30	Ornament Making Contest, Douthat	17
23 - Dec. 29	Christmas at the Tunnel, Natural Tunnel	12
23 - Dec. 22	Country Christmas Weekends at Sky Meadows, Sky Meadows	12
24 - Dec. 8	Tundra Swan Tours, Caledon	4

December

1	Natural Holiday Craft Workshop, James River	4
1	Trim-A-Tree for Wildlife, James River	17
2	Mulberry Hill Christmas Open House, Staunton River Battlefield	17
2	Santa's Christmas Party at Douthat, Douthat	12
2	Willis River Run, Bear Creek	4
6-8	A Frontier Christmas, Wilderness Road	13
8	Flotilla for Toys, Smith Mountain Lake	13
8	Decorate a Tree for Wildlife, Caledon	4
8-9	Civil War Santa, Sailors Creek Battlefield	4
8-16	Jones-Stewart Mansion Tours: 400 Years, Chippokes Plantation	4
14	Christmas Time at the Blockhouse, Natural Tunnel	13
15	Foster Falls Holiday Festival of Lights, New River Trail	13

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



Easter Egg Hunt at Staunton River Battlefield

STAUNTON RIVER BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

March 31 1-3:30 p.m.

Bring the family to the park to seek hidden Easter eggs, pet live bunnies, play games and possibly catch a glimpse of the Easter Bunny. Raindate April 1. \$2 per child.

A Stitch in Time Annual Quilt Show

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA MUSEUM HISTORICAL STATE PARK

April 1 - May 31

Quilting has long been a mainstay of Appalachian culture and heritage. For centuries quilts have been used for warmth, as adornment, and even for communication. Enjoy a display of more than 150 quilts from pre-Civil War to modern day art quilts. Regular admission rates apply.

Easter Celebration

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK

April 7 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Gear up for the Easter bunny with a morning of rabbit facts, basket making and an Easter egg hunt. Bring a picnic lunch for the family to enjoy at our scenic Visitor Center after the festivities. There is a charge of \$5 per basket made. Otherwise, it's free.

Easter Activities

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

April 7 11 a.m.

Welcome the arrival of spring by celebrating Easter at Douthat. Activities will include arts and crafts, basket making, an egg hunt and a magic show for the young and young at heart. For more information, e-mail douthatinterpreter@dcr.virginia.gov.

Easter Egg Hunt

LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK

April 8 1-3 p.m.

Hunt for colorful prize filled Easter eggs! The kids will color eggs, play games and enjoy making crafts.

New River Trail Spring Seniors Van Tour

NEW RIVER TRAIL STATE PARK

April 10-18 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m.

The New River Trail follows the New River through some of Virginia's most breathtaking scenery. Ride in a passenger van as park staff takes you on a daylong guided tour down the trail. A boxed lunch and complimentary trail map are included. Call the park for more information or to make a reservation. Held April 10, 11, 17 and 18. \$25.

Eagle Festival

MASON NECK STATE PARK

April 21

The park's spring festival celebrates the life of Liz Hartwell and the environs she protected. Hartwell spearheaded efforts to preserve bald eagle habitat on Mason Neck. The whole family will enjoy musical performances, live animal shows, hayrides, food, canoe tours, guided hikes, and educational displays and activities.

America's 400th Anniversary Celebration

FIRST LANDING STATE PARK

April 26 - 27

Harken back to 1607 when the Virginia Company settlers first landed in the New World. Watch a re-enactment of the "first landing" complete with costumed interpreters and replica sailing ships. Reservations and tickets required. Contact 1-800-933-PARK for more information about this special event. Also enjoy costumed interpreters and Nansemond tribe members present programs about the Virginia Company. Special exhibits by the John Smith 400 expedition will be open to the public. Don't forget to walk through the newly constructed replica of a Native American village and observe life before colonial settlers arrived in the New World. \$

Spring Fling

KIPTOPEKE STATE PARK

April 28 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join in preserving our natural resources by helping keep our sand dunes healthy.

Wolf Trap Rambler's Band Concert

STAUNTON RIVER STATE PARK

April 28 - Sep. 29 7-8 p.m.

Come relax as sweet bluegrass music fills the air of great outdoors. It's the perfect setting for such melodies. Concerts held April 28, May 26, June 15, July 28, Aug. 25 and Sept. 29. \$

Lakeside Bluegrass Festival

TWIN LAKES STATE PARK

May 4-5

Enjoy several bands and various food and vendors. 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. on May 4 and noon to 10 p.m. on May 5. Advance Tickets: Friday only \$10, Saturday only \$15, both days \$22; kids under 12 free with paid adult. Tickets at Gate: Friday only \$15, Saturday only \$20, both days \$30. Open air event - rain or shine. No coolers or pets in concert area. There will be vendors offering food and beverages (no alcoholic beverages).

Raid at Martin's Station

WILDERNESS ROAD STATE PARK

May 11-13

Join us as we slip into the shadows of Virginia's 1775 Wilderness. See and hear history come alive as more than 150 living historians re-enact life at Joseph Martin's frontier fort. Watch as two cultures clash, and the flames of war once again ignite on Virginia's frontier. Activities include a re-enactment of Native Americans burning a cabin at Martin's Station, tours of Native American warrior camps and colonial militia camps, frontier fort life, 18th century vendors and colonial traders, selling their wares. Admission \$3 per adult \$1 per child (6-12). Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Music by the River - Bill, Pam and Macon Gurley

BELLE ISLE STATE PARK

May 12 6-8 p.m.

The Friends of Belle Isle kick off their annual Music by the River series with tunes of the Gurley family. The Gurleys perform a mix of bluegrass, folk, country, gospel and original tunes. Bring a picnic basket, lawn chairs and a blanket to celebrate

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

summer with the sounds of excellent musicians. Children will enjoy making crafts or playing on the adjacent playground. There is no fee for the Music by the River series. The Friends of Belle Isle and local businesses and organizations underwrite the cost of the musical acts.

Native American Festival

OCCONEECHEE STATE PARK

May 12

Take in this colorful event and experience the song and dance celebration with Native American dancers. Enjoy freshly prepared native foods and arts and crafts vendors. \$

Mothers Day Activities

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

May 12

Spend a beautiful spring day with mom and make gifts she's sure to cherish a lifetime. Programs include arts and crafts, paper-making and a spring wildflower hike. For more information, contact the staff at douthatinterpreter@dcr.virginia.gov.

Fossil, Fun and Fitness Kayak Trip

WESTMORELAND STATE PARK

May 18 - Oct. 13

Kayak beneath Westmoreland's majestic cliffs. Hear the cries of eagles as they soar overhead. Learn about the history of the cliffs and the Potomac, and visit a beach where you can hunt for fossils ancient sharks' teeth during this two-hour paddle. Children six and older only, please. \$16 per person, \$22 per couple.

Armed Forces Day Concert

CLAYTOR LAKE STATE PARK

May 19 2-4 p.m.

Join us for a variety of patriotic music in honor of America's armed forces. Bring your own lawn chair and blanket. Food and non-alcoholic beverages are welcome.

Music by the River - Steve Keith

BELLE ISLE STATE PARK

May 19 6-8 p.m.

The Friends of Belle Isle continue their annual Music by the River series with Steve Keith. This one-man act plays guitar, fiddle, banjo and harmonica. Steve performs a mix of jazz, folk, country, bluegrass, nautical and western swing songs. Bring a picnic basket, lawn chairs and a blanket to celebrate summer with the sounds of this excellent musician. Children will enjoy making crafts or playing on the adjacent playground. There is no fee for the Music by the River series. The Friends of Belle Isle and local businesses and organizations underwrite the cost of the musical acts.

Douthat Lake Run Cruise-In and Car Show

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

May 19-20 12-5 p.m.

On Saturday, enjoy a cruise-in and live musical entertainment on the beach. On Sunday, get in gear and drive to one of Virginia's most beautiful parks for a day of fun, sun and classic automobiles. Hundreds of vehicles are displayed around the park. An exciting afternoon of games and activities is planned for guests of all ages. Shuttles to and from the show area are provided. The fee to show a vehicle is \$13 per vehicle in advance, by May 19, or \$15 the day of the show.

Jazz by the Lake - Southside Jazz Festival

OCCONEECHEE STATE PARK

May 19-20 3-9 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of jazz while taking in the splendor of Buggs Island Lake.

James River Memorial Day Weekend

JAMES RIVER STATE PARK

May 25-28

Listen to a park naturalist's discussion, have s'mores at the campfire, take a wagon ride in search of owls and feed resident critters at the park's nature center. Visit "Treasure Island" in a canoe, kayak or tube to learn about the living James River. The park's canoe livery rents canoes, kayaks, tubes and bicycles, and offers shuttle services.

Gathering in the Gap Music Festival

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA MUSEUM HISTORICAL STATE PARK

May 26 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

Enjoy the sounds of old-time and bluegrass music at the Gathering In The Gap. Events include competitions, jams, and special music performances by the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group. The Carolina Chocolate Drops are a group of young African-American stringband musicians who have come together to play in the rich tradition of fiddle and banjo music. Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group have thrilled folk, bluegrass and country audiences during their appearances on Prairie Home Companion, The American Radio Company, and Austin City Limits, among others. It's \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (6-12 years old) and under 6 get in free.

Memorial Day Weekend at Claytor Lake

CLAYTOR LAKE STATE PARK

May 26-28

The beach area and concessions open this weekend. Join our staff for a weekend of fun activities and more.

Lighting of the Tunnel

NATURAL TUNNEL STATE PARK

May 26 - Oct. 27

Four 2,000-watt floodlights illuminate the south entrance of the tunnel in a spectacular display. Live entertainment is provided, and refreshments are available. Held on the last Saturday of each month through October.

Kiptopeke Native American Festival

KIPTOPEKE STATE PARK

May 26-27 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Join volunteers, park staff and tribe members in celebration of Native American culture on the Eastern Shore. \$



Delaplane Strawberry Festival

SKY MEADOWS STATE PARK

May 26-27 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Celebrate spring and the region's strawberry season with music, arts and crafts, kids' games, a petting zoo, wagon rides, historical exhibits, a silent auction, lots of great food and fresh strawberry sundaes. \$20 per car.

Bluegrass Under the Stars

JAMES RIVER STATE PARK

May 26 - Sep. 1 7:30 p.m.

Bring the whole family to hear great music in a beautiful setting overlooking the James River. \$10 per person; 12 and under get in free. Please call the park for specific dates and call (434) 528-4049 for band details.

Luau at the Lake

HUNGRY MOTHER STATE PARK

May 26 6 p.m.

Kick off summer on Memorial Day weekend with an authentic luau on Hungry Mother's sandy beach. There will be live beach music by Backstage and a delicious island feast. Also, there are contests for the best beach outfit, limbo and shag dancing. For more information call (276) 783-4109. \$

Hickory Flats Concert

GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK

May 26 8-10 p.m.

One of the region's finest old-time and bluegrass bands, Hickory Flats, is always a crowd pleaser. Bring the whole family to enjoy a great show.

Get-together with Wayne C. Henderson

GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK

May 27 8-10 p.m.

Named in honor of internationally renowned Virginia musician Wayne C. Henderson, this outdoor event is dedicated to traditional mountain music. Henderson has made guitars for Eric Clapton, played with Doc Watson and many others, yet he's one of the most down-home people you'll ever meet and always puts on a great show. Picnic area. \$

Music in the Park

HUNGRY MOTHER STATE PARK

June 2 - Sep. 1 8 p.m.

Every Saturday night, the park hosts a variety of local musicians at the gazebo.

Music by the River - Southern Grace

BELLE ISLE STATE PARK

June 9 6-8 p.m.

The Friends of Belle Isle continue their annual Music by the River series with a performance by Southern Grace. This popular group from the Shenandoah area will delight and inspire the audience with their southern Christian music. Bring a picnic basket, lawn chairs and a blanket. Children will enjoy making crafts or playing on the adjacent playground. The Friends of Belle Isle and local businesses and organizations underwrite the cost of this free show.



Celebration of Summer

CLAYTOR LAKE STATE PARK

June 9 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

What better way to celebrate the beginning of summer than a majestic display of fireworks? Plus, plenty of music, arts and crafts, food vendors, a car show, an antique fire truck show, and the dedication of a plaque about William Christian, brother-in-law of Patrick Henry. There's also a boat parade on Claytor Lake in which participants decorate their boats as colonial ships. Bring your appetite and stay all day. \$5 parking fee. Contact the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce for details, (540) 980-1991.

Chippokes Steam and Gas Show

CHIPPOKES PLANTATION STATE PARK

June 9-10 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Fun for the whole family, come celebrate the early days of the modern farm with an exciting and educational weekend. The event includes tractor pulls, vintage trucks, steam engines, kids' activities, demonstrations, farm animals, arts and crafts, a flea market, entertainment, peanut-picking, blacksmithing, food and more. For more information call (804) 786-7950. \$



FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Bluegrass Under the Stars

JAMES RIVER STATE PARK

June 9 - Sep. 1 7-10 p.m.

Enjoy great music in a beautiful setting overlooking the James River. The outdoor amphitheater is the perfect venue for traditional bluegrass. Join "In the Tradition" as they host a different guest band at each concert. Bring lawn chairs or blanket for seating. Concert dates are Saturday June 9, Aug. 11 and Sept. 1. \$8 per person. Ages 12 and under free.

Pickin' in the Park

NATURAL TUNNEL STATE PARK

June 10 - Aug. 26 2-5 p.m.

These open-air concerts feature local mountain musicians. After the performance by the main attraction, the stage is opened up for others during an open microphone session then a jam session by the day's performers closes the concert. It's held on the second and fourth Sundays in June, July and August.

Staunton River's 71st Birthday Bash

STAUNTON RIVER STATE PARK

June 15

Celebrate the park's 71st Birthday with musical entertainment, arts and crafts, kid's games, wagon rides, nature hikes and more. Small fee charged for kid's games. \$



Magic in the Mountains: A Festival of Alleghenies

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

June 15- 23

This fun-filled community event spans an entire week and features various activities throughout Alleghany County. Clifton Forge will feature arts, crafts, antiques, classic automobiles and motorcycles, railroad history and live entertainment the first weekend. Douthat State Park offers history and nature programs as well as entertainment throughout the week. On the final Saturday, Covington showcases arts, crafts, motorcycles, barbecue, wine tasting, music and live entertainment. Contact the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce for details at (540) 962-2178.

Wayne C. Henderson Music Festival and Guitar Competition

GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK

June 16 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Named in honor of internationally renowned Virginia musician Wayne C. Henderson, this outdoor festival is a day of fun and song dedicated to traditional

mountain music. You'll also find arts and crafts, good food and children's activities. \$10 per person.

Music by the River - Hi Tied and Mercy Creek

BELLE ISLE STATE PARK

June 16 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The Friends of Belle Isle continue their annual Music by the River series with Mike O'Shaughnessy and Ben Eberline (Hi Tied), opening for Mercy Creek. Hi Tied will play rock and roll before turning the stage over to Mercy Creek, one of the hottest "Indie" groups on the East Coast, performing what they call aggressive folk music. Bring a picnic basket, lawn chairs and a blanket. Children will enjoy making crafts or playing on the adjacent playground. The Friends of Belle Isle and local businesses and organizations underwrite the cost of this free show.

Grayson Highlands Mountain Cultural Festival

GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK

June 17 12-4 p.m.

Enjoy a historic afternoon of great folk music, storytelling, craft demonstrations, old-time games and hands-on craft activity. There's a \$6 parking fee.

Battle of Staunton River Bridge Commemoration

STAUNTON RIVER BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

June 23 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

This daylong event includes a commemorative ceremony of the Battle of the Staunton River Bridge, a Confederate encampment, cannon firing, music, medal presentations, programs, wagon rides, guest speakers and more.

Farm and Fish Expo

KIPTOPEKE STATE PARK

June 23 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Celebrate Eastern Shore farming and fishing heritage. Learn about new and old farming and fishing technology, meet watermen of the Eastern Shore, and sample food from local farmers and fishers.

James River Fourth of July Weekend

JAMES RIVER STATE PARK

June 29 - July 2

Listen to a park naturalist's discussion, have s'mores at the campfire, take a wagon ride in search of owls and feed resident critters at the park's nature center. Visit "Treasure Island" in a canoe, kayak or tube to learn about the living James River. The park's canoe livery rents canoes, kayaks, tubes and bicycles, and offers shuttle services.

Before 1607 – Melungeons in the New World

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA MUSEUM HISTORICAL STATE PARK

June 29 – Oct. 14

The Melungeons, a people of mixed ancestry, are common throughout the southeastern Appalachian Mountains. The mysterious Melungeons have dark, Mediterranean skin set off startling blue eyes, European features, high cheekbones and straight, black hair. They were "discovered" by the French in 1690 in the western Carolina mountains. The French were puzzled at their claim to be "Portyghee." And the Scotch-Irish settlers who moved down the Shenandoah Valley in the 1750s found them in the far reaches of southwestern Virginia. Join us to explore the theories of origins and help unravel the mystery at this Melungeon Heritage Association annual gathering. For more information visit www.melungeons.com. \$

Fourth of July at Claytor Lake

CLAYTOR LAKE STATE PARK

June 30-July 4

Celebrate our nation's independence and the 400th anniversary of Jamestown with boating tours, the Friends of Claytor Lake Boat Parade and other fun activities.



Fourth of July Activities

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

July 4

Join us for fun activities celebrating our nation's independence. In addition to the park's regular programs, take part in Revolutionary Relays, Liberty Limbo, Sea to Shining Sea Sand Sculpting and more.

Fourth of July at First Landing

FIRST LANDING STATE PARK

July 4

Bring the family for a fun-filled day on the beach with games, sand castle contests, food and more. Stay for an awesome fireworks display from the park's beach on the Chesapeake Bay.

An Old-Fashioned Fourth

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA MUSEUM HISTORICAL STATE PARK

July 4 2-4 p.m.

Enjoy Independence Day the way it was celebrated in the Victorian Era, complete with competitions in watermelon seed spitting, sack racing, and other bygone pastimes. Enjoy the Town of Big Stone Gap's Red, White and Blue Parade after this outdoor program. This program will be canceled if it rains.

Independence Day Concert at New River Trail

NEW RIVER TRAIL STATE PARK

July 7 2-5 p.m.

Show your American spirit by taking in an afternoon filled with bluegrass, gospel and patriotic music performed live. There will be hotdogs and hamburgers available. \$6 per person.

Grayson Highlands First Annual Classic Car Show

GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK

July 14 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Warm weather and some cool rides will be on display at Grayson Highlands' First Annual Classic Car Show. Come out and look or add your classic to this new event. A \$10 per car fee entered in the show.

Music by the River

BELLE ISLE STATE PARK

July 14 6-8 p.m.

The Friends of Belle Isle continue their annual Music by the River series. Bring a picnic basket, lawn chairs and a blanket to celebrate summer with the sounds of excellent musicians. Children will enjoy making crafts or playing on the adjacent playground. The Friends of Belle Isle and local businesses and organizations underwrite the cost of this free show.

Hungry Mother Arts and Crafts Festival

HUNGRY MOTHER STATE PARK

July 20-22 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

One of the largest juried craft shows in southwestern Virginia, more than 100 artisans will display traditional and contemporary artwork, leather crafts, wooden crafts, pottery and other crafts. The weekend also includes demonstrations, children's activities, music and food.

Pork, Peanut and Pine Festival

CHIPPOKES PLANTATION STATE PARK

July 21-22 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

One of the more popular and exciting festivals, three of Virginia's primary products are celebrated in this two-day festival of arts, crafts, music and, of course, food, food and food. More than 225 artisans display their wares. A wide assortment of native Virginia food vendors will be on-hand with menus that include world famous pork barbecue, fried pork rinds, grilled pork chops, sausage, ham biscuits, peanut pie and peanut brittle. Bring your appetite and plan to stay all day.

James River Raft Race and Summer Festival

JAMES RIVER STATE PARK

July 21 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

This event promises fun for the whole family. Activities include a fishing clinic, kids' fishing derby, game station, river races and live music. The adventurous two-mile races in several categories include canoe, kayak, inflatable craft and homemade river vessels. Race pre-registration is encouraged. Prizes are awarded for the fishing derby and the races. Food and drink will be for sale. Rain date is July 28.

Douthat Arts and Crafts Fair

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

July 28 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The fair features artisans and crafters from as far away as Florida. See quilts, birdhouses, furniture, ceramics, candles, woodcrafts, stained glass, crochet, jewelry, photography, baskets and more. Admission for spectators is free; vendors call ahead to register.

Fairy Stone Arts and Crafts Fair

FAIRY STONE STATE PARK

Aug. 4

The Fairy Stone Arts and Crafts Fair features a wide variety of crafters and artisans. Vendor spaces are available for rent.

A Walk Through Time - Our 35th Anniversary

HOLLIDAY LAKE STATE PARK

Aug. 4

Celebrate the park's 35th anniversary. Walk through time to see how a gold mining family lived in the 1850s, learn how young men of the depression era created the lake in the 1930s and visit with some state park campers from the 1970s. On your walk, you'll discover that Holliday Lake State Park is still adding amenities such as the new observation deck overlooking the lake.

Dog Days of Summer Concert

NEW RIVER TRAIL STATE PARK

Aug. 4 5-8 p.m.

Beat the heat with an outdoor concert featuring folk and bluegrass music. Enjoy this tribute to summer with refreshments provided by the local fire and rescue departments.

Mixed Bag concert

GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK

Aug. 4 8-10 p.m.

The names says it all the band, Mixed Bag, plays everything from Wilson Pickett

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



to Bill Monroe. You'll leave feeling better than when came. The band always has fun; it's a crowd-great pleaser.

Music by the River

BELLE ISLE STATE PARK

Aug. 11 6-8 p.m.

The Friends of Belle Isle continue their annual Music by the River series. Bring a picnic basket, lawn chairs and a blanket to celebrate summer with the sounds of excellent musicians. Children will enjoy making crafts or playing on the adjacent playground. The Friends of Belle Isle and local businesses and organizations underwrite the cost of this free show.

African-American Heritage Day

CHIPPOKES PLANTATION STATE PARK

Aug. 18 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Reconnect with family roots throughout history by celebrating African-American history and culture. Artisans, ethnic food, educational programs, and live music ensure a great time for all.

Back to School Beach Bash

CLAYTOR LAKE STATE PARK

Aug. 18 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Summer ending but make the most of what's left by taking in the park's annual beach bash! The fun takes place at the beach house and includes a sand-sculpting contest, races and more.

Music by the River

BELLE ISLE STATE PARK

Aug. 18 6-8 p.m.

The Friends of Belle Isle continue their annual Music by the River series. Bring a picnic basket, lawn chairs and a blanket to celebrate summer with the sounds of excellent musicians. Children will enjoy making crafts or playing on the adjacent playground. The Friends of Belle Isle and local businesses and organizations underwrite the cost of this free show.

Big Country 101 Back to School Beach Bash

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

Aug. 18

Come to Douthat's sparkling beach for one last weekend of freedom before heading back to class. Take part in the park's famous Cardboard Boat Regatta and paddle your cardboard creation around the course on the lake. There will also be beach games, horseshoe pitching, food and fun. Beach admission is only \$1.01, and parking is free with a donation of school supplies. For more information, call (540) 862-8115.

Labor Day Weekend at Claytor Lake

CLAYTOR LAKE STATE PARK

Aug. 31 - Sep. 3

Make one last trip to Claytor Lake beach before it's closed for the season. There will be programs and fun for all ages this Labor Day weekend.

James River Labor Day Weekend

JAMES RIVER STATE PARK

Aug. 31 - Sep. 3

Enjoy s'mores at the campfire, take a wagon ride in search of owls and don't forget to help feed the resident critters at the nature center. Visit "Treasure Island" in a canoe, kayak or tube to discover the life of the James River. The park's canoe livery rents canoes, kayaks, tubes and bicycles, and offers shuttle services.

Labor Day Weekend at Douthat

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

Sep. 1-3

Douthat's beach closes after Labor Day so come out one last time for beach games, nature and history programs, and other entertainment for all ages.

Shuck 'n Cluck

HUNGRY MOTHER STATE PARK

Sep. 1 6 p.m.

Come to the park for a Hawaiian feast sponsored by Marion Downtown. Enjoy live island music on the sandy beach. Enjoy delicious, fresh oysters – roasted, grilled, shooters, just about any way you like them – plus grilled chicken and all the fixings. For more information, call (276) 783-4109. \$

Fifth Annual Papa Joe Smiddy Mountain Music Festival

NATURAL TUNNEL STATE PARK

Sep. 2 5-10 p.m.

The Fifth Annual Papa Joe Smiddy Mountain Music Festival is one of Scott County's signature events. It's being held at the amphitheater at Natural Tunnel, which is affiliated with "The Crooked Road," Virginia's Heritage Music Trail. The concert is being held in honor of Papa Joe Smiddy, a regional mountain music champion. \$.

Bay Seafood Festival

BELLE ISLE STATE PARK

Sep. 7 4:30-10 p.m.

The Kilmarnock-Irvington-Whitestone Rotary host this event as their major annual fund raiser. Guests enjoy oysters, soft shell crabs, scallops, shrimp, fish, clam chowder, pork barbecue, french fried sweet potatoes, hush puppies and much more. Tickets sell out every year and will not be sold at the gate. This is an adult event, children are not recommended. For more information, visit www.kiwsrotary.org

Native American Day at Natural Tunnel

NATURAL TUNNEL STATE PARK

Sep. 15 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Come for a day of education and enjoyment as you become familiar with the Cherokee culture. Many presentations and demonstrations take place throughout the day. Enjoy story-telling and dancing, and see how weapons and tools were once made.

Come Home to Westmoreland

WESTMORELAND STATE PARK

Sep. 15 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

This annual festival at the park's waterfront celebrates Virginia and honors its people. Rappahannock Native American dancers will entertain, and there will be artisans, crafters, live music, face painting, children's games, displays, food and more. Stroll around the shady park or rent a water craft and paddle down the Potomac. Entry fee includes parking.

Appalachian Author's Signature Event

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA MUSEUM HISTORICAL STATE PARK

Sep. 22 7 p.m.

New York Times best-selling author Sharyn McCrumb, best known for her Ballad Series, celebrates her ancestors and the land of the mountain South in her stories, which are rich in culture and tradition. A book-signing follows her presentation. There's a \$5 admission fee.

Anniversary of Freestone Battery

LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK

Sep. 22-23 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Join the anniversary of the building of the confederacy's northernmost artillery battery that helped blockade the Potomac River in 1861. Take part in a re-enactment of historical happenings; witness a weapons firing demonstration.

Performing Arts in the Park

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

Sep. 29 7 p.m.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket to Douthat State Park's beautiful beach for an evening of live beach music and entertainment. Concessions and souvenirs are available as well. Special thanks to the many local businesses who make this event possible. \$

Grayson Highlands Fall Festival

GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK

Sep. 29-30 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Virginia's unique, traditional mountain culture comes alive during this two-day festival as the air is filled with sounds of music and the sweet smell of apple butter, hobo pies, cider and sorghum molasses. There will also be a pony sale, a blacksmithing demonstration, kids' games, more than 100 arts-and-crafts and food booths, homesteading demonstrations and other entertainment. \$6 per day.



October Fall Farm Fest Weekends

SKY MEADOWS STATE PARK

Oct. 6-28 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

October Fall Farm Fest Weekends. Celebrate farm life with the family. Every weekend in October, reconnect with wholesome farm living. Pick pumpkins, squeeze cider, make apple butter, play in the hay and watch farm critters. Rock on the back porch as friends and neighbors drop by to tell tall tales and make music.

America's First Frontier and Heritage Festival

WILDERNESS ROAD STATE PARK

Oct. 12-14

The park brings Virginia's frontier to life with a weekend of history and adventure. At Historic Martin's Station, you will be immersed in living history; you will meet historical figures such as Joseph Martin, William Preston, Benjamin Logan and Richard Henderson. Visit an 18th century market fair and meet skilled colonial tradesmen, and participate in life as it was on Virginia's frontier. \$3 per adult, \$1 per child (6-12). Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Heritage Harvest Day

CHIPPOKES PLANTATION STATE PARK

Oct. 13

Join the staff and volunteers during field demonstrations and participate in a living history event of harvesting corn, cotton and peanuts the "old fashioned" way. Learn how these raw materials were transformed into items we use and food we eat. Because of Mother Nature's whimsy, please call ahead to learn which crops are harvested on a given weekend.

Apple Day

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

Oct. 13 8 a.m.

Enjoy crisp mountain air, changing leaves and celebrate the fruits of fall. Spend a fun-filled day in the park with apple butter making, frontier games, campfire cooking, hayrides, canoe tours, hay rides, traditional Appalachian artisan and craft demonstrations, music, clogging and great food, including a pig roast. For more information, call (540) 862-8117.

Leesylvania's Multicultural Festival

LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK

Oct. 13 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Enjoy international foods, crafts, music, dance and traditions. Representatives from around the world will be on-hand to celebrate the diversity of this unique community.

Wilderness Road Heritage Festival

WILDERNESS ROAD STATE PARK

Oct. 13 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Appalachian crafts and crafters pack the lawn of the Karlan Mansion as bluegrass music fills the air. The sweet smell of home cooking by various food vendors will make your visit more enjoyable. Walk to Historic Martin's Station and step back in time as Virginia's frontier comes alive. You will see Joseph Martin and many more colonial settlers tend to farming, militia drilling, spinning flax and wool, natural dying, harvesting crops, working animals and much more. \$3 per adult, \$1 per child (6-12).

Frontier Harvest Celebration

NATURAL TUNNEL STATE PARK

Oct. 13 5-7 p.m.

Go back to the 1770s and enjoy an evening of jolly fun to celebrate the fall harvest.

Olde Time Harvest Festival at Mason Neck

MASON NECK STATE PARK

Oct. 20 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Come celebrate the harvest season and Mason Neck's history at this event with crafts, music, food, fun activities and educational demonstrations.

Harvest and Halloween Festival

CHIPPOKES PLANTATION STATE PARK

Oct. 20 1-5 p.m.

This festival is for the kids, but it's great family fun for all. Wear your costume. Learn

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

about harvesting and take part in Halloween activities and games: A haunted walk, hayrides, a pumpkin patch, a hay bale maze, etc. Food is available. \$

Fall Harvest Festival and Haunted Wagon Ride

JAMES RIVER STATE PARK

Oct. 20 4-9 p.m.

Enjoy an old fashioned harvest festival packed with fall farm activities, games, pumpkin painting, good food and live music. Kids can see how cider was once made, create their own hand-dipped candles and take part in a candy hunt just for them. Live music, a bonfire and a haunted wagon ride round out the special evening. Wagon rides are \$5 per person. Those 6 and get in free. \$

Fall Fest

FIRST LANDING STATE PARK

Oct. 20 6-10 p.m.

Celebrate fall with programs covering harvesting and Native American food gathering and preparation. Next, go for a hayride or a night hike in search of the elusive screech owls that live in First Landing.

Haunted Harvest Hayride

STAUNTON RIVER BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

Oct. 20 7 p.m.

Ride through haunted fields and the forest of fear. Enter costume contests, visit a fortune teller and enjoy other family-oriented activities. \$4 per person, kids 5 and under are free.

Plantation Christmas Crafts Festival

CHIPPOKES PLANTATION STATE PARK

Oct. 26-28 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Enjoy Christmas past by interacting with more than 100 costumed craftsmen and artisans who demonstrate and sell their wares. Plenty of entertainment and delicious food make this a great way for the whole family to kick off the season.



Be sure to visit the decked-out Chippokes Mansion and the Farm and Forestry Museum while you're there.

Fairy Stone Fall Frolic

FAIRY STONE STATE PARK

Oct. 27

Enjoy a day of fun including hay rides, bluegrass music, a cake walk, crafters and children's games.

Halloween Activities

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

Oct. 27 11 a.m.

Get into the Halloween spirit. Activities include children's programs about creepy, crawly critters like bats, snakes and spiders. In the evening there's a haunted campfire where guests enjoy spooky storytelling and marshmallows by the fire.

Goblins and Goodies

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK

Oct. 27 2-3 p.m.

It's family Halloween crafts and fun including hayrides and much more. Visit "The Good Witch of Eastlake," hear scary stories and sing and make bats and spiders. Suggested for ages 9 and younger.

Haunted Trail and Hay Ride

SHENANDOAH RIVER STATE PARK

Oct. 27 7-10 p.m.

Come celebrate Halloween at the park, if you dare. Take a spooky hay ride down the haunted trail. This popular event delights crowds every year with Halloween festivities and fun. \$2 per person or \$5 per car.

The 12th Annual Festival of Trees

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA MUSEUM HISTORICAL STATE PARK

Nov. 11 - Dec. 31

Now in its 12th year, take in this wonderful holiday tradition to get you in the spirit of the season. Enjoy more than 80 decorated trees, mantles, fireplaces and doors as you tour the four floors of an 1890s Victorian mansion. Each display is unique and represents a variety of themes. Regular admission rates apply.

Christmas at the Tunnel

NATURAL TUNNEL STATE PARK

Nov. 23 - Dec. 29

Enjoy caroling, camaraderie and holiday lights. The park's chairlift will be operating, and Santa will be there too. Held on Fridays and Saturdays.

Country Christmas Weekends at Sky Meadows

SKY MEADOWS STATE PARK

Nov. 23 - Dec. 22

On weekends through the holiday season, avoid the frenzy, step back and smell the cider. Rest in and around historic Mt. Bleak House and enjoy music and stories as you pick out a live tree. There will also be unique made-in-Virginia gifts. There are special candlelight tours of the historic Mt. Bleak house on Saturdays.

Santa's Christmas Party at Douthat

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

Dec. 2 5-8 p.m.

Santa arrives at Douthat's Lakeview Restaurant in a boat pulled by a pair of rainbow trout. Have your photo taken on Santa's lap, make a gift for someone special, shop at Douthat's Holiday Shoppe and enjoy yummy food and warm beverages with friends and family. There's a charge for photographs and crafts.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



A Frontier Christmas

WILDERNESS ROAD STATE PARK

Dec. 6-8 5-7 p.m.

Join us for a festive celebration of music, dancing and caroling as the Christmas spirit illuminates the Virginia frontier. Enjoy a candlelit tour of Historic Martin's Station at the height of the yuletide season. Take part in historic festivities or just relax and enjoy a cozy fire in a settler's cabin.

Flotilla for Toys

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK

Dec. 8 7-9 p.m.

Take in an evening of lavishly decorated boats. While they float by, enjoy hot apple cider, roasted marshmallows and fellowship by the fire. Presented by Virginia Dare Cruises. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for a local youngster and the park will waive the parking fee.

Christmas Time at the Blockhouse

NATURAL TUNNEL STATE PARK

Dec. 14 5-7 p.m.

Enjoy an evening filled with frontier observances and the fun of the holiday season.

Foster Falls Holiday Festival of Lights

NEW RIVER TRAIL STATE PARK

Dec. 15

Enjoy free holiday hayrides and hot chocolate at the park. As the sun sets, Foster Falls comes to life with more than 50,000 colorful lights to celebrate the holiday season. Join in the holiday spirit by donating unopened canned food at the contact station to have your parking fee waived.

Civil War Santa

LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK

Dec. 15-16

Leesylvania hosts a special guest this weekend: Civil War Santa dressed in his 1800s costume. Bring a camera for a picture with this delightful fellow. Enjoy light refreshments, help decorate the park's Christmas tree, and make some 19th century decorations for home. \$2 per person, \$6 per family. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

OUTDOOR, NATURE AND NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

The Women of Leesylvania

LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK

March 17 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Discover the many faces of the women at Leesylvania. Journey through time, from Doeg Native Americans to the women of the Lee and Fairfax families. Engage costumed interpreters, learn about their day to day activities, try your hand in different crafts, and see what you'd have worn a century ago. It's fun, interactive, a delight for all and only \$3 a person or \$6 for a group of four or more.

Sky Watch at Sailor's Creek Battlefield

SAILORS CREEK BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

March 17 - Nov. 10

Explore the heavens with guidance by astronomy experts in a place far from the interference of bright lights. Special sky watch programs can be arranged by request. March 17 at 7 p.m.; May 12 at 8:30 p.m.; Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m.; and Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Livin' Green

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK

March 17 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join an interpreter to learn some simple steps you can take towards living green. Through games, displays and demonstrations, we explore the importance of conserving our natural resources.

Hearth Cooking

CHIPPOKES PLANTATION STATE PARK

March 17-31 12-4 p.m.

Come join costumed interpreters demonstrate the art of 19th century open-hearth cooking. Discover the tastes and smells of early Chippokes Plantation cuisine at the Brick Kitchen located next to the Jones-Stewart Mansion. Held March 17, 24 and 31.

Sky Watch

POCAHONTAS STATE PARK

March 24 6:30-9 p.m.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to join the Crewe Astronomy Club for a guided tour of the night sky. Enjoy tales of the constellations, view distant galaxies through powerful telescopes or watch for meteors and satellites passing by. If skies are cloudy, join us for an amazing astronomy program at the Heritage Center. Program starts promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Pathways to the Past

POCAHONTAS STATE PARK

April 7 and May 5 10-12 a.m.

Explore the cultural heritage of Pocahontas State Park with a guided tour of our 2.5-mile Beaver Lake Trail as we visit an old mill site as well as important CCC structures. The hike is moderate to difficult and not recommended for very young children. Please wear dress for the weather. Registration required; (804) 796-4255. \$2 per person, \$6 per family.

Native Planting for Backyard Habitats

CALEDON NATURAL AREA

April 14 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Learn about native plants that attract birds and wildlife to your backyard. Also learn proper planting techniques and timing, as well as alternative uses for some native plants. Select native plants will also be available to take home and plant in your own yard. Reservations required; please contact the park to reserve. \$

OUTDOOR, NATURE AND NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

Wildflower Weekend

NATURAL TUNNEL STATE PARK

April 14-15

Wildflower Weekend. Learn about the many beautiful species of wildflowers that inhabit Southwest Virginia. Join local wildflower experts and park naturalists on hikes that highlight the park's native wildflowers. Various hikes will be offered throughout the day.



Primitive Technologies Workshop

HOLLIDAY LAKE STATE PARK

April 21 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Celebrate Virginia's 400th anniversary. This workshop covers technologies used by prehistoric Native Americans who lived in this area. Participants get hands-on experience creating and using these technologies. The four core areas are flint knapping, cordage and basket weaving, ceramics and fire making. It's \$25 per person, and lunch is provided. To sign up you must be at least 12 years-old and register by April 13 by calling the park at (434) 248-6308.

Spring Sky Watch

JAMES RIVER STATE PARK

April 21 8 p.m.

Can you tell the difference between a star and a planet? The Crew Astronomy Club teaches you how. We use telescopes to search the sky for constellations and the planets Venus and Saturn. Take a close-up look at the moon. Bring binoculars and dress for the spring temperatures. An indoor program is held if the weather doesn't cooperate. You may call the park to schedule a Sky Watch Program just for your group.

Jamestown: The Beginning of the Adventure for Kids

WILDERNESS ROAD STATE PARK

April 23-27 and Nov. 12-16 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The cornerstone of America's foundation was laid in 1607 when Europeans set foot on the banks of the James River. They risked everything for a new life in a new world and started an era of settlement and exploration that would continue in southwestern Virginia at Martin's Station 168 years later. The explorations of the Foresters of Jamestown and the Longhunters of Martin's Station helped establish Virginia and helped build a new nation. The film, *Jamestown Adventure*, shows throughout the day. It helps children experience Jamestown in 1607. The event also highlights how explorers' efforts were continued generations later by men such as Capt. Joseph Martin and others. Step back in time and join us as we

commemorate the spirit of those early explorers and the spirit of our nation. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This program is for children grades K-12.

New River Trail Spring Half-Day Van Tour

NEW RIVER TRAIL STATE PARK

April 24 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Enjoy spring on a half-day van tour from the historic Shot Tower to Pulaski along the scenic New River Trail. A complimentary trail map is included. Call the park office for more information or to make a reservation. For seniors; \$15 per person.

Girl Scout Day at Douthat

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

May 5 11 a.m.

Bring your troop to this fun-filled day of activities. Scouts participate in programming that fulfills requirements for several Try-Its, Badges or Interest Projects. Plus the registration fee covers all activities, parking and a participation patch. Pack a picnic or make reservations at Douthat Lakeview Restaurant for lunch. For more information, a registration form or for a correlation of Douthat's programs to Try-Its, Badges and Interest Projects, contact the staff at douthatinterpreter@dcr.virginia.gov. \$5.

Voyage to Jamestown

CHIPPOKES PLANTATION STATE PARK

May 5-6 2 p.m.

Take part in this hands-on historical program that covers why English settlers came to the New World, how they got here, why they chose to settle on Jamestown Island and the impact their survival had on the surrounding area.

Mother's Day Hike

LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK

May 12 1-4 p.m.

Join us for a 1.5-mile hike to discover Leesylvania's decades-old wildflower gardens. Afterwards you can help plant seeds at the park's visitor center gardens.

Bat Workshop

CALEDON NATURAL AREA

May 12 6-8 p.m.

The only mammals that can fly, bats are endangered throughout the world. Learn about and view our local species of bats. Build a bat box to take home. Reservations required. Contact the park for reservations. \$

Beach Bonfire

CHIPPOKES PLANTATION STATE PARK

May 13 7:30 p.m.

View the Jamestown 2007 finale fireworks celebration from the shores of Chippokes.



OUTDOOR, NATURE AND NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

Frogs and Toads

CALEDON NATURAL AREA

May 19 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Explore the lives of amphibians at Caledon. Search for eggs and tadpoles. Learn to identify calls. Make a toad house to take home. Reservations required. \$6 per person.

Take a Ride on the Wild Side

FALSE CAPE STATE PARK

May 27 - Sep. 2

On Sundays. Join park staff for an exciting bus tour through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge into False Cape. Explore a coastal environment. Learn interesting facts about wildlife and look for deer, bobcats, foxes and birds. Meet at Little Island City Park for transport into the park. Reservations required. For more information and program times, contact the park. \$6 per person.

Speak to a Settler

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK

May 29 - Aug. 28 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday afternoon, an 1830s settler dressed in period garb visits the campground. Stop him and chat about life as it was in the 19th century.

Colonial Candles

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK

May 30 - June 27 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Held on Wednesdays. Since the discovery of fire, there's been a way to light up the night. Learn to make candles as the colonists did. Use a period candle mold to make your own candle to take home. Pre-registration is required at our main office. \$2 per candle.

CSI: Creek Scene Investigation

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK

May 31 - Aug. 30 1:30-3 p.m.

Get your feet wet and cool off investigating the vast array of life in a stream. Catch crawdads, salamanders, frogs, etc. The park supplies the nets, you supply old shoes and an explorers' spirit. Pre-registration required at our main office. Held on Thursdays. \$2 per person.

Stock Creek Passage

NATURAL TUNNEL STATE PARK

June 2 - Oct. 20

Take a guided hike through Natural Tunnel via Stock Creek. Wading attire, a flashlight and wading staff are recommended. \$5 per person. It's offered every other Saturday, but the park can accommodate groups of five or more any day. Call the park for details at (276) 940-2696. Advanced registration is required.

National Trails Day

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

FIRST LANDING STATE PARK

KIPTOPEKE STATE PARK

June 2 10 a.m.

Gyoataku! (Fish Printing)

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK

June 2 - Sep. 1 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Take home a souvenir of your visit. If you haven't experienced this centuries-old art firsthand, you're in for a treat, albeit a messy one. Pre-register at the office. Held on Saturday mornings. Be sure to dress for messy fun! \$5 includes a T-shirt to keep. \$



James River Bateau Living History

JAMES RIVER STATE PARK

June 9 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

A large wooden boat is manned by a volunteers who offer a living history experience for the young and old alike. Learn how these spectacular boats were used and the unique history behind their construction.

Siege at the Blockhouse

NATURAL TUNNEL STATE PARK

June 9-10 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Experience life on the Appalachian frontier in 1770s. Take in Pioneer and Native American encampments. There will be numerous period demonstrations and re-enactments throughout the weekend; the main event is on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Birdbath Workshop

CALEDON NATURAL AREA

June 9-10 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Learn to identify some of our local birds. Make a mosaic birdbath to take home. Reservations required; please contact the park for reservations. \$

Photography Workshop

GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK

June 9-10 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

This workshop is designed for those interested in improving their photography skills. Learn various techniques to succeed in capturing a great image. Short lectures and critiques of photos are used to impart the secrets of snagging the perfect shot. You'll spend time taking photos at the park so bring a camera and a bag lunch. Registration is required; limited to 15 participants.

Star-gazing at Twin Lakes

TWIN LAKES STATE PARK

June 9 - Aug. 18 8 p.m.

View and learn about our glorious galaxy, the Milky Way. There's no better place to see the heavens than away from bright city lights.

How Our Ancestors Lived: The Roaring Twenties

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA MUSEUM HISTORICAL STATE PARK

June 13 - Aug. 8

Held each Wednesday. Explore American life as it was in the 1920s. Through demonstrations and hands-on activities, children discover the customs, dress, economics and social life of this interesting time. The session for children ages 6-9 is 9:30-10:30 a.m., and for children ages 10-12 from 11 a.m. to noon. Fee for the entire nine weeks is \$12.

OUTDOOR, NATURE AND NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS



Clean the Bay Day

**FALSE CAPE STATE PARK
KIPTOPEKE STATE PARK**

June 16

Keeping up with the Joneses

HOLLIDAY LAKE STATE PARK

June 16 3-5 p.m.

Hear the story of a family who settled in what is now Holliday Lake State Park. The Jones family farmed and panned for gold along Holliday Creek in the 1850s. In this program, children play with toys similar to those the Jones children might have had, try on period clothing and imagine life in pre-Civil War days.

Rhododendron Bloom Hike

GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK

June 17 2-4 p.m.

Program for all ages. On this hike, you'll see the best bloom on Wilburn Ridge. \$2 per adult, free for children 12 and under.

Lunch on the Lawn

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA MUSEUM HISTORICAL STATE PARK

July 6 - Aug. 31

Get an early start to the weekend with a relaxing mid-day meal each Friday in July and August as you enjoy music on the lawn of museum. Bring your own "brown bag" lunch and enjoy the free performance or buy a boxed lunch for \$5. Call the museum by 10 a.m. Friday to place your order for lunch.

Jamestown: The Beginning of the Adventure

WILDERNESS ROAD STATE PARK

July 7-13 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The cornerstone of America's foundation was laid in 1607 when Europeans set foot on the banks of the James River. They risked everything for a new life in a new world and started an era of settlement and exploration that would continue in southwestern Virginia at Martin's Station 168 years later. The explorations of the Foresters of Jamestown and the Longhunters of Martin's Station helped establish Virginia and helped build a new nation. Join in celebrating Virginia's 400th anniversary. The film, *Jamestown Adventure*, will show throughout the day. Through it, you experience Jamestown as it was in 1607. The event also highlights how the original explorers efforts were continued generations later by men such as Capt. Joseph Martin and others. Step back in time to commemorate the spirit of those early explorers and the spirit of our nation.

Build Your Own Sundial

CALEDON NATURAL AREA

July 15 1-3 a.m.

Learn about the sun and our solar system. Build your own sundial to take home. Reservations required; please contact the park to reserve. \$

Scavenger Hunt Challenge

TWIN LAKES STATE PARK

Aug. 4 10-11 a.m.

Come to the park to hunt for some natural treasures.

Labor Day Weekend

HOLLIDAY LAKE STATE PARK

Aug. 31 - Sep. 3

End the summer at Holliday Lake. Festivities include a welcome campfire on Friday night, a canoe tour and owl call on Saturday night (\$6 per person), The First Americans slide show on Sunday night, rock hopping and an informational program on our butterfly garden.

Estuaries Day

YORK RIVER STATE PARK

Sep. 22 12-4 p.m.

A special day at York River State Park, which is known for its delicate estuarine ecology. Learn about this special environ and how human activities threaten it. Because of group size limitations, some programs require pre-registration, but it's all free.

Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Expo

KIPTOPEKE STATE PARK

Oct. 6-7

Sponsored by the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, this special event celebrates its 16th anniversary in 2007. It's one of the best bird watching festivals on the East Coast. Take in the splendor as North America's birds make their way south during the annual migration. Enjoy workshops, special guest speakers, children's programs, boat tours, exhibits and other educational activities. It's a must for all bird watchers.

Autumn Sky Watch

JAMES RIVER STATE PARK

Oct. 13 7 p.m.

Join the Crew Astronomy Club for an "out of this world" adventure. This moonless October night will be ideal for deep sky observation. Learn how to search the sky for constellations, nebula and many other interesting features of the night sky. Bring binoculars and dress for fall. An indoor program is held if the weather proves uncooperative. You may call the park to schedule a Sky Watch Program just for your group.

New River Trail Autumn Seniors Van Tour

NEW RIVER TRAIL STATE PARK

Oct. 16-17, Oct. 23-24 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m.

The New River Trail follows the New River through some of Virginia's most breathtaking mountain scenery. Ride in a passenger van as park staff takes you on a daylong guided tour down the trail. A boxed lunch and complimentary trail map are included. Call the park for more information or to make a reservation. \$25 per person.

New River Trail Autumn Half-Day Van Tour

NEW RIVER TRAIL STATE PARK

Oct. 30 8:45-12:30 a.m.

Seniors can enjoy fall colors on a half-day van tour from the historic Shot Tower to Fries and Galax along the scenic New River Trail. A complimentary trail map is

CANOEING AND KAYAKING

included. Call the park office for more information or to make a reservation. \$15 per person.

Decorating with Nature

CALEDON NATURAL AREA

Nov. 3 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Use natural material to decorate your home for the holidays. Make swags, wreaths and garlands. Make a centerpiece to take home. Reservations required. \$6 per person.

Ornament Making Contest

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

Nov. 12-30

Area schools students, 4-H club members, church groups and scouts are invited to compete in an event in which contestants make ornaments out of natural or recycled materials. Ornaments are judged and prizes are awarded in various categories.

Trim-A-Tree for Wildlife

JAMES RIVER STATE PARK

Dec. 1 1 p.m.

Children and parents are invited to create beautiful and edible holiday tree trimmings for our park wildlife. After making delectable décor, we trim a tree at the nature center. Refreshments are provided.

Mulberry Hill Christmas Open House

STAUNTON RIVER BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

Dec. 2 2-5 p.m.

Visit a 19th century plantation house and see what Christmas was like during the Civil War. \$3 per person. Mulberry Hill.

Decorate a Tree for Wildlife

CALEDON NATURAL AREA

Dec. 8 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Make edible decorations for wildlife. Take one home for wildlife in your backyard. Reservations required; please contact the park to reserve. \$



Canoe Tour and Owl Call

HOLLIDAY LAKE STATE PARK

May 26 - Sep. 1

Discover Holliday Lake after the sun goes down. Paddle the shores of the lake in canoes until it gets dark enough for the Warriors of the Night – the owls – to come out for night hunting. NOTE: canoe tours are held on MOST Saturday evenings during this range. Please call the park for specific dates and to register, (434) 248.6308. \$6 per person.

Dan River Pontoon Boat Tours

STAUNTON RIVER STATE PARK

April 15 - Aug. 12 1-5 p.m.

Come to the park to enjoy majestic scenery and wildlife as you take a relaxing pontoon boat ride along the Dan River. Sponsored by Staunton River State Park and River Traders, in Scottsburg, Va. Held April 15, June 15 and Aug. 12. \$

Paddle the Rappahanock

BELLE ISLE STATE PARK

May 1 - Oct. 31

Paddle the tidal creeks of the lower Rappahanock River. Your guide discusses the importance of wetlands to the Chesapeake Bay, how plants adapt to brackish water conditions, how to identify the species found in this habitat and cover John Smith's exploration of the Rappahannock. Themes change throughout the summer. Call or email the park for specific dates or to receive our monthly program listing; (804) 462-5030. Reservations are suggested. \$5 per person, family rates are available.

Canoe Tours

LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK

May 5 - Sep. 30

Join park staff for a fun, family oriented canoe trip on Powell's Creek. It states with basic canoe safety and paddling instructions, then you're outfitted with a



CANOEING AND KAYAKING



life vest. Bring drinking water for each person, sunscreen, bug spray, a hat and footwear you don't mind getting wet (no bare feet!). Participants must register at the visitor center at least 24 hours in advance; space is limited. Children under four are not allowed. \$9 per person, \$6 per person for a group of four or more. From May through September, the trip is held on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and on Sundays from 5 to 7 p.m.

Journey To the James

CHIPPOKES PLANTATION STATE PARK

May 6 5 p.m.

Explore the James River as a Powhatan Indian might have. Travel back in time and paddle the James as a park ranger discusses how the Powhatan Indians might have reacted to their new neighbors, the English.

A Paddle to the Past

CHIPPOKES PLANTATION STATE PARK

May 12-13 10 a.m.

Travel along the shores of Chippokes and paddle towards Jamestown Island.

Morning on the Lake

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK

May 31 - Aug. 30 8:45-11:45 a.m.

View the park from the best vantage point - a canoe. Partake a peaceful paddle along the lake's shores on Thursday mornings. Space is limited. Pre-registration required. \$5 per person. Children must be 5 and accompanied by an adult to take part.

Early Morning Canoe Trip

STAUNTON RIVER STATE PARK

June 21 - Aug. 22 9-10 a.m.

Enjoy a one-hour float around our peaceful 23-acre lake. Space is limited. Contact the main office for reservations and prices. Canoes, paddles and lifejackets provided; beginners welcome. \$

Mid-morning Canoe Trip

STAUNTON RIVER STATE PARK

June 22 - Aug. 23 10-11 a.m.

Enjoy a one-hour float around the park's peaceful 23-acre lake. Space is limited. Contact the main office for reservations and prices. Canoes, paddles and lifejackets provided; beginners welcome. \$

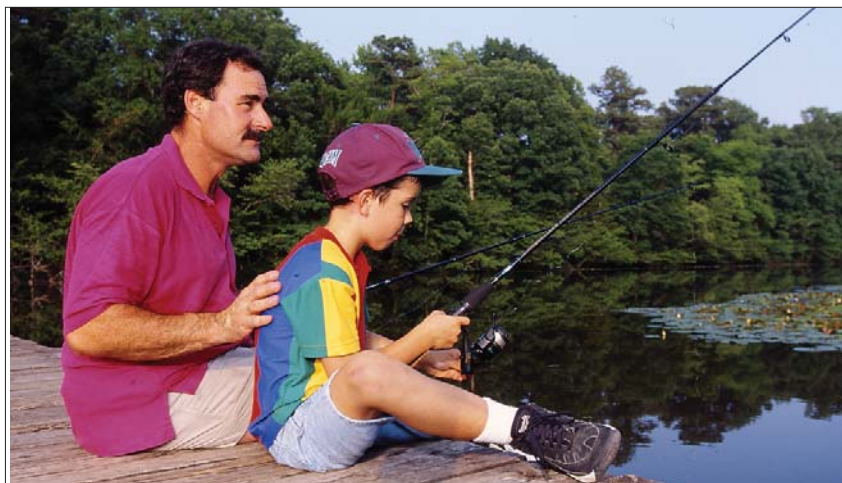
Mid-morning Canoe Trip

TWIN LAKES STATE PARK

June 30 and July 21 10 a.m.

Get your day off to a great start. Join us for a relaxing float around Goodwin Lake on June 30 or July 21. All skill levels welcome. Equipment is supplied. Pre-registration is required. Please contact the park for details and to register. \$

FISHING



Kids' Free Fishing Tournaments

LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK

May 5 - Sep. 1 9-11 a.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of Leesylvania State Park, this program introduces kids to fishing. Prizes and goodie bags are awarded. Held on the first Saturday, May to September.

Occoneechee Kids' Fishing Day

OCCONEECHEE STATE PARK

June 2 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

All kids 6-15 are invited to take part in a day of fishing at one of the state's best fishing spots. There will be displays and staff to teach young people about safety, knot-tying, casting and more. Lunch is provided, and your youngster might win a special prize! (Registration is required.)

Youth Fishing Clinic

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK

June 2 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Hosted by Bedford County Parks and Recreation, this fishing clinic offers a casting contest, a session on boat and water safety, fish identification, lures, knot tying, prizes and more. Call to pre-register.

Aspiring Anglers Tournament

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK

June 9 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Bring your own pole and bucket. We supply the free bait. This tournament is open to boys and girls up to and including 14. They will compete in age groups for first, second and third place trophies plus a luner trophy for the largest fish of the tournament. Pre-register from 8 to 8:45 a.m.

Fishing for the Kids and Clean the Bay Day

DOUTHAT STATE PARK

June 9 11 a.m.

Douthat State Park and Alleghany 4-H sponsor this angling event for youngsters. Workshops include Fish Printing, Critter Crawl, Fishing FUNDamentals, Clean the Bay Day and Kids' Fishing. Clean the Bay Day events at Douthat promote stewardship of our watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay. Even though Douthat is in the Allegheny Mountains hundreds of miles away, the park is in the James River's watershed; the rainfall here eventually reaches the bay.

Children's Fishing Clinic

FAIRY STONE STATE PARK

June 16

Children 4-12 learn the basics of fishing including how to tie on hooks, cast, and general safety tips. Each child will fish during the program. Sponsored by the Fairy Stone Fishing Club, Country Boys Bass Masters, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Call to pre-register.

HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES



Open hunting is offered in designated areas of Fairy Stone, Grayson Highlands, Hungry Mother, Occoneechee and Pocahontas state parks. Special lottery hunts are held at Belle Isle, Claytor Lake, Douthat, False Cape, Grayson Highlands, Kiptopeke, Mason Neck, and Shenandoah River state parks. Special reservation hunts are held at Caledon Natural Area, Chippokes, James River, Smith Mountain Lake and York River state parks. Hunting is offered in state and national forests surrounding Bear Creek Lake, Douthat, Grayson Highlands, Holliday Lake and Twin Lakes state parks. Proof of completion of a hunter safety course is required to participate in the special lottery or reservation hunts held in Virginia State Parks. Other special requirements may apply on a site-by-site basis.

Park cabins and campsites fill up during hunting season, so make reservations early!

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS



Virginia State Parks are great places to learn more about the natural and cultural history of the Old Dominion. Each year thousands of informative and entertaining family oriented programs are offered to park guests by trained park staff and volunteers eager to share their knowledge about these special places. Programs normally run an hour or two and range from guided nature walks and canoe trips to fossil hunts and historic craft demonstrations. Most are offered between Memorial Day and Labor Day and are free with park admission.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Archaeology programs

Claytor Lake, Holliday Lake, Staunton River Battlefield

Astronomy Program

Claytor Lake, First Landing, Hungry Mother, James River, Lake Anna, Natural Tunnel, Pocahontas, Sailor's Creek Battlefield, Staunton River, Smith Mountain Lake, Twin Lakes, York River

Birding

All parks

Children's Fishing Tournaments/Clinics

Claytor Lake, First Landing, Hungry Mother, Leesylvania, New River Trail, Pocahontas, Staunton River, York River

Campfire Programs

Many parks

Canoe Tours

Bear Creek Lake, Belle Isle, Chippokes, False Cape, Holliday Lake, Hungry Mother, James River, Kiptopeke, Leesylvania, Mason Neck, Natural Tunnel, Pocahontas, Smith Mountain Lake, Staunton River, Twin Lakes, York River

Folk and Bluegrass Music

Grayson Highlands, Fairy Stone, Hungry Mother, James River, Mason Neck, Natural Tunnel, Pocahontas, Staunton River

Fossil Hunts

Caledon, Chippokes, Westmoreland, York River

Guided Fairy Stone Hunts

Fairy Stone

Ghost Stories

James River, Kiptopeke

Hayrides

York River, Occoneechee, Kiptopeke

Historical Demonstrations and Programs

Chippokes, Grayson Highlands, Hungry Mother, James River, Lake Anna, Leesylvania, Sailor's Creek Battlefield, Staunton River Battlefield, Wilderness Road

Junior Naturalist Program

Hungry Mother

Junior Ranger Program

Many parks

Kayak Tours

False Cape, Shenandoah River, Westmoreland

Mountain Hikes

Douthat, Grayson Highlands, Hungry Mother

Nature Hikes

Most parks

Night Hikes

Most parks with overnight facilities

Night Canoe Trips

Bear Creek, False Cape, Holliday Lake, Leesylvania, Staunton River, York River

Panning for Gold

Lake Anna

Pontoon Boat Tours

Belle Isle, Lake Anna, York River

"Your Backyard Classroom" Workshops

False Cape, First Landing, Mason Neck, Leesylvania, York River

ACCOMMODATIONS

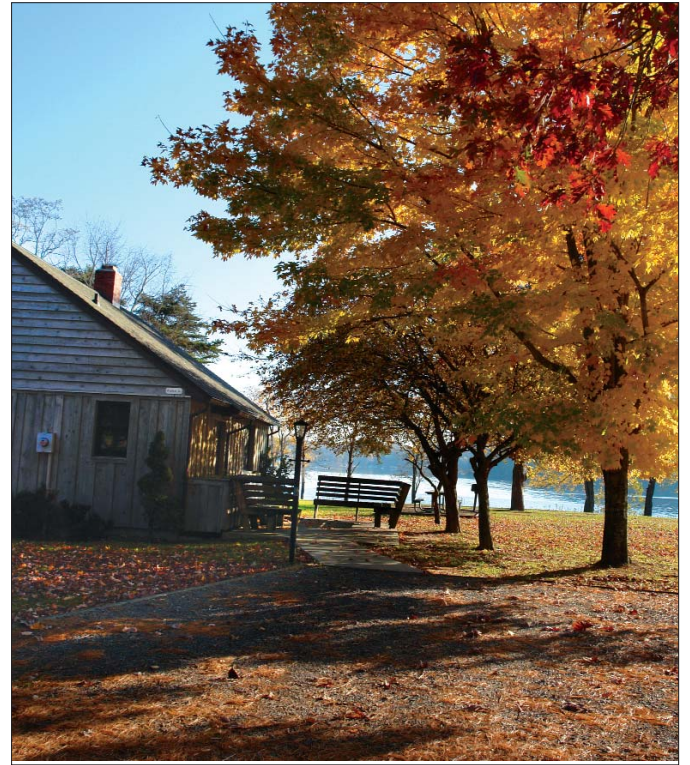
Virginia State Parks reserves the right to cancel, postpone, combine or reschedule courses and to substitute qualified instructors when necessary. You may receive a full refund if a course is canceled or rescheduled and you can't participate. If you make camping or cabin reservations and no longer wish to use them as a result of a course cancellation or rescheduling, you can receive a full refund for these reservations as well.

Many Virginia State Parks offer camping and cabins, and reservations can be made through the reservation center by calling 1-800-933-PARK.

Fully furnished, climate controlled cabins are available at Bear Creek Lake, Claytor Lake, Chippokes Plantation, Douthat, Fairy Stone, First Landing, Hungry Mother, James River, Lake Anna, Occoneechee, Smith Mountain Lake, Staunton River, Twin Lakes and Westmoreland state parks. Most parks offer camping, with a wide variety of site sizes and support services, from primitive to electric-water hookups. Some parks offer group camping areas as well.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Stop by any park office or call (804) 786-5057 to learn how you can join the growing number of Virginia State Park volunteers. Park staff members value your commitment, enthusiasm, and desire to help strengthen Virginia's future and help the great outdoors. Volunteers are needed for short-term weekend projects as well as long-term campground host programs.



PARK LOCATIONS

Shenandoah

1. Douthat State Park • (540) 862-8100
2. Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River State Park • (540) 622-6840
3. Sky Meadows State Park • (540) 592-3556

Northern Virginia

4. Lake Anna State Park • (540) 854-5503
5. Leesylvania State Park • (703) 670-0372
6. Mason Neck State Park • (703) 339-2385

Tidewater and Eastern Shore

7. Belle Isle State Park • (804) 462-5030
8. Caledon Natural Area • (540) 663-3861
9. Chippokes Plantation State Park • (757) 294-3625

10. False Cape State Park • (757) 426-7128
11. First Landing State Park • (757) 412-2300
12. Kiptopeke State Park • (757) 331-2267
13. Westmoreland State Park • (804) 493-8821
14. York River State Park • (757) 566-3036

Central

15. Bear Creek Lake State Park • (804) 492-4410
16. Fairy Stone State Park • (276) 930-2424
17. Holliday Lake State Park • (434) 248-6308
18. James River State Park • (434) 933-4355
19. Occoneechee State Park • (434) 374-2210
20. Pocahontas State Park • (804) 796-4255
21. Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park • (434) 392-3435
22. Smith Mountain Lake State Park • (540) 297-6066
23. Staunton River Battlefield State Park • (434) 454-4312

24. Staunton River State Park • (434) 572-4623
25. Twin Lakes State Park • (434) 392-3435
Cedar Crest Conference Center • (434) 767-2398

Blue Ridge Highlands

26. Breaks Interstate Park • (276) 865-4413
27. Claytor Lake State Park • (540) 643-2500
28. Grayson Highlands State Park • (276) 579-7092
29. Hungry Mother State Park • (276) 781-7400
Hemlock Haven Conference Center • (276) 781-7425
30. Natural Tunnel State Park • (276) 940-2674
Cove Ridge Center • (276) 940-2696
31. New River Trail State Park • (276) 699-6778
32. Shot Tower Historical State Park • (276) 699-6778
33. Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park • (276) 523-1322
34. Wilderness Road State Park • (276) 445-3065

